



TO: Commissioner Jerry Libbin, Chair

Members of the Sustainability Committee

Eric Hecht – Appointed by Commissioner Jerry Libbin
Lanette Sobel – Appointed by Commissioner Jorge Exposito
Debra Leibowitz – Appointed by Commissioner Deede Weithorn
Liliam Furst – Appointed by Commissioner Jonah Wolfson
Luiz Rodrigues – Appointed by Commissioner Ed Tobin
Gabriole Van Bryce – Appointed by Commissioner Michael Gongora
Mitch Novick – Appointed by Mayor Matti Herrera Bower

DATE: February 11, 2013

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2013.**

The attendees were as follows: Committee members: Liliam Furst, Debra Leibowitz, Mitch Novick, Luiz Rodrigues, Lanette Sobel, and Gabriole Van Bryce.

Absentees: Eric Hecht.

City Staff: Debora Turner, First Assistant City Attorney; Alex Denis, Procurement Division Director; Fred Beckmann, Public Works Director; Betsy Wheaton, Environmental Resources Manager; and, Margarita Wells, Environmental Specialist.

Guests: Debbie Griner, Miami-Dade County; and, Denis Russ, Miami Beach Community Development Corporation.

1. Minutes Review

- a. Motion to approve minutes made by Ms. Van Bryce, seconded by Mr. Novick. Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

- a. **Air Quality and Climate Change – Southeast Florida Climate Change Compact, Regional Climate Action Plan and Mayor’s Climate Action Pledge, Debbie Griner.**

- i. Ms. Griner presented an overview of the Southeast Florida Climate Change Compact, the Compact’s Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP), and the Mayor’s Climate Action Pledge. Mr. Beckmann indicated that the City will review the RCAP recommendations and determine their applicability to the City. Commissioner Libbin indicated that the Committee should review one RCAP Program Area per meeting.

MOTION: The Sustainability Committee recommends that the Commission adopt the Mayor’s Climate Action Pledge. Motion made by Ms. Van Bryce, seconded by Ms. Sobel. Passed unanimously.

- b. **Community Outreach and Participation**

- i. **MiaGreen Conference & Expo, Betsy Wheaton.**

- 1. Ms. Wheaton indicated that the City will have an informational booth at the 2013 expo, but that it will be less extensive than in

2012. Commissioner Libbin recommended that the City reach out to companies that partnered with the City for the 2012 event for participation in the 2014 event. In addition, he requested that staff add this event to the Committee's meeting agenda for discussion six months prior to the event date.

ACTION: Staff to add event discussion to July 2013 meeting agenda.

ii. **Earth Hour / Earth Day / Earth Month and \$25K Sustainable Initiative Waste Hauler Contribution Discussions, Betsy Wheaton.**

1. Ms. Wheaton informed the Committee that the City will be observing Earth Hour by turning off all lights at City facilities in the City Center on March 23. Commissioner Libbin stated that the City has \$25,000 from the Waste Hauler Contributions' Sustainable Initiative Fund that could, with the Commission's approval, be distributed as grants to organizations willing to organize Earth Day events for the City. The organizations would present at the March Committee meeting and be evaluated based on criteria developed by the Committee members.

MOTION: The Sustainability Committee urges the City Commission to authorize the appropriation of \$25,000 from the Sustainable Initiative Fund for the celebration of Earth Day 2013 and further authorize the City Manager to award 501(c)3 non-profit organizations this money through grants not to exceed \$5,000 for proposed programs that will have wide community outreach, provide the greatest benefit to the City's residents, while also raising environmental awareness to the City's diverse community. Motion made by Mr. Rodrigues, seconded by Ms. Sobel. Mr. Novick opposed. Motion passed (6:1).

iii. **2013 Authentic and Sustainable Florida Conference Planning, Denis Russ.**

1. Mr. Russ provided an overview of the annual Authentic and Sustainable Florida Conference and invited the Committee to attend the first planning meeting for the 2013 conference, which will be hosted by the City.

iv. **Boucher Brother Grant Announcement, Betsy Wheaton.**

1. Ms. Wheaton distributed a draft of the City's proposed grant announcement for the Boucher Brother's contributions for the Committee's review and input.

c. **Solid Waste Management – Recycling Update, Betsy Wheaton.**

- i. Ms. Wheaton provided the Committee a draft of the Recycling Ordinance

letter that the City's Code Compliance Division will distribute to commercial facilities for their review and input.

3. New Business

- a. Commissioner Libbin asked the Committee how they would like to move forward with the green alleys discussion item. Ms. Sobel recommended the formation of a subcommittee to further investigate the issue. Ms. Van Bryce expressed interest in serving in this subcommittee.
- b. Ms. Leibowitz indicated that she would like to recommend a presenter for an upcoming meeting to discuss clean air ordinances and banning of smoking in indoor areas.

ACTION: Staff to add discussion item and invite presenter to a future Committee meeting.

- c. Mr. Rodrigues requested a status on the existing Coca-Cola ROW recycling bins and recommended that signage be installed at the street ends near the City's recycling drop-off stations.

ACTION: Staff to provide an update at the February meeting and install signage at the recycling drop-off locations.

- d. Commissioner Libbin requested to continue the artificial turf discussion at the February Committee meeting and asked Ms. Leibowitz to present a summary of her findings as part of that discussion.

ACTION: Staff to add artificial turf discussion to the February meeting agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

The proceedings of this meeting have been recorded. Please contact Patricia Bocio at 305.673.7080 or pbocio@miamibeachfl.gov for more information.

FHB/JJF/RWS/ESW/MKW

F:\WORK\ALL\1) EMPLOYEE FOLDERS\BETSY WHEATON\SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE\AGENDA - MINUTES\Agenda & Minutes 2013\January\MINUTES 1 15 2012.doc

1

2

3